

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /080 W

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R 211525Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK ZA

SUBJ: DAILY MAIL SEES SMITH'S CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION AS HIS
DEVICE TO WRIGGLE OUT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE

REF: LUSAKA 2099

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DAILY MAIL DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT IN AN ARTICLE
ON EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JULY 21 DAILY MAIL VIEWED SMITH'S
CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION AS HIS MEANS OF WRIGGLING
OUT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. ARTICLE CHARACTERIZES
UK AND U.S. REACTIONS AS "MOST HARMLESS BARK". SMITH IS
FREE TO HUMILIATE THE U.S. AND BRITAIN BECAUSE HE KNOWS
DEEP IN HIS HEART THAT THE U.S. AND BRITAIN HAVE NOT
CHANGED THEIR POLICIES SINCE HAROLD WILSON
"SANCTIONED" THE UDI BY ABDICATING THE USE OF FORCE.
HOWEVER, THE UK AND THE U.S. "WOULD NOT STAND IDLY
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BY IF THE RUSSIANS CAME OUT IN THE OPEN IN SUPPORT OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

2. TURNING FROM CRITICISM OF THE WEST FOR SUPPORT OF
THE REBEL REGIME, THE ARTICLE LOOKED AT THE DANGERS
CREATED BY SMITH'S MOVE. NOTING THAT FOR SOME TIME
SMITH HAD BEEN PLANNING TO GET BLACK "QUISLINGS" ON HIS

SIDE, I.E., MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH APPEARS TO GIVE POWER OVER TO THE SECURITY FORCES TO BLACKS COULD LURE THE UK AND U.S. INTO SUPPORT FOR MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WHICH WOULD CAUSE "REAL TROUBLE" FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ARTICLE THEN EXPLORES ARGUMENTS FOR THE SMITH AND SITHOLE-MUZOREWA FACTIONS NEEDING EACH OTHER, BUT STOPS SHORT OF PREDICTING THEY WILL GET TOGETHER. A SUCCESSFUL INTERNAL OPTION WOULD ALSO BE BAD BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO THE U.K. AND U.S. OPPOSING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, IT WOULD SPLIT THE RANKS OF THE OAU WHERE THE REVEREND AND THE BISHOP STILL HAVE SUPPORTERS. THE ONLY WAY THAT A JUST SOLUTION CAN BE OBTAINED IS FOR THE U.S. TO USE ITS POWERFUL POSITION AND MOVE THE BRITISH TO MOVE THE WORLD TO BRING ABOUT SMITH'S BURIAL. AN EARLY DEFEAT OF SMITH CAN COME ABOUT ONLY IF THE U.S. AND THE UK SWING BEHIND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, SINCE OPPOSITION BETWEEN THESE GROUPS SERVES ONLY TO STRENGTHEN SMITH AND PROLONG MINORITY RULE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: MORE THAN ONCE IN THE PAST THE VIEWS OF THE MAIL'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT HAVE REFLECTED ACCURATELY THE THINKING IN STATE HOUSE. THIS IS PROBABLY TRUE IN THIS CASE ALSO AND IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE ADMISSION THAT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO WIN OUT

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IT REQUIRES BRITISH AND AMERICAN SUPPORT. ALSO THE FRANK ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT SMITH'S SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF AN INTERNAL OPTION WOULD BE A MAJOR SETBACK TO THE FRONT'S DESIRE TO ASSUME POWER IN RHODESIA AND IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE WEST MIGHT SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE IS OF INTEREST.

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Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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